

REMARKS

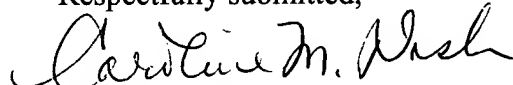
Claims 1, 3-8, 10-17 and 19-24 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-17 and 19-24 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph as allegedly not enabled. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner has rejected the claims based on the unpredictability of the art at the time of the invention and has noted that a declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.132 could be used to overcome this rejection. The Examiner indicated that the declaration should show data that shows that the claimed treatment reduces serum levels of HCV antigen, HCV antibody or HCV oligonucleotides. Included herewith is a declaration as requested by the Examiner that shows the outcome of the combination therapy of the claimed invention. The declaration indicates that the claimed combination treatment of thymosin $\alpha 1$ (TA1) with interferon (IFN $\alpha 2b$) showed better results than treatment with IFN alone or placebo.

The withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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